

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

June 23, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

This week I was reminded, again, of the immeasurable impact of commitment.

I started the week at the ceremony to welcome home Michigan Army National Guard Company B, 125th Infantry. These citizen soldiers came from all over our state to serve together in Iraq.

The personal commitment of the men and women of Company B to serve our country should make us all proud to call them our neighbors and friends.

I ended the week visiting with a number of people who have made a very different, but important commitment as well – they've chosen Michigan for their businesses– to locate here, expand here, and create jobs here.

In Kalamazoo, AVTech Laboratories and Bell's Brewing Company were given special recognition this week for their commitment to Michigan.

These two companies started as innovative ideas and today they are thriving small businesses that are growing and creating jobs.

AVTech Labs is a high-tech research firm that works with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. This company, and others like it, are clear evidence that the state's commitment to the life sciences corridor and diversification is paying dividends. In the coming months, AVTech will double in size.

Near Saginaw, Hemlock Semiconductors, an alternative energy company, is in the middle of a nearly \$400 million expansion, that will create more than 400 new jobs in that community in coming months.

Up the road in Bay City, Carbone of America, a high-tech manufacturing firm, held a groundbreaking ceremony for their latest expansion.

These employers are choosing Michigan for lots of reasons. We have an outstanding workforce, a competitive business climate and a clear commitment to invest in workforce training and education.

They know that we are committed to their success.

That's why I have the most comprehensive, the most aggressive and the biggest economic plan of any state in the nation.

It's a six billion dollar plan to create jobs today and to invest in diversifying our economy to create jobs tomorrow and to invest in all of our citizens to give them the tools they need to succeed in a 21st Century economy.

From a \$2 billion fund to create 21st Century Jobs to our \$600 million in tax cuts for manufactures to our world-class workforce, Michigan has an outstanding strategy to help businesses grow and succeed.

That's why these companies and so many others like Keebler, United Solar Ovonic and Whirlpool are choosing Michigan.

But I know there's more to do. That's why I'm moving forward, working our plan, going anywhere and doing anything to bring jobs to Michigan.

Thank you for listening.